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[Mr. Speaker]

Noes—cont.

Thangavelu, Sri R.
 Thagaraja Pillay, Sri.
 Thimma Reddi, Sri P.
 Thinekarasami Thevar, Sri.
 Thirumurthi, Sri P. K.
 Urkavalan, Sri P.
 Vaheesam Pillay, Sri G.
 Vaikunta Rajga, Sri B.
 Vaikuntam, Sri.
 Varadan, Sri T. R.
 Varadarajulu Naidu, Dr. P.
 Veeranna Padali, Sri K.
 Vema Reddy, Sri K. V.
 Venkata Setty, Sri K.

Venkatasubba Reddi, Sri O.
 Venkatasubba Reddi, Sri T. N.
 Venkatasubbayya, Sri P.
 Venkatayya, Sri N.
 Venkatarayana Dora, Sri K.
 Venkatrama Ayyar, Sri S.
 Venkatramiah, Sri A.
 Venkatramana Gowda, Sri K.
 Venkatswami Reddi, Sri P.
 Venkatswamy Naidu, The Hon. Sri K.
 Venugopalakrishnasamy, Sri.
 Victoria, Mr. J. L. P. Roche.
 Virupakshayya, Sri.

Neutral.

Ahamed Kutty, Janab C.
 Chadayan, Sri M.
 Chidambaram, Sri V.

Kunhi Muhamed Shafee, Janab.
 Ramakrishnan, Sri K.
 Uppi, Janab K.

Ayes—148; Noes—175; Neutral—6."

The motion was lost.

II.—DISCUSSION ON HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS—cont.

MR. SPEAKER :—" As the question hour is now over we will proceed to the next item. The short notice question will be taken up on the next working day. We shall proceed with the debate on the Governor's Address."

* SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have moved an amendment regarding the unemployment position in the handloom industry in this State. There are about ten lakhs of handloom workers in this State of whom about one lakh are in my district of Malabar. I can say that out of this about 75 to 90 per cent are now unemployed and wherever we turn, whether it be the bus-stand or any other place, we find the unemployed handloom workers going about begging. I want to remind the hon. Members of this House how the Congress in the past fought against the British Government's policies directed towards ruining our national industries and how Congress volunteers like Kumaran of Tiruppur and Babukannu of Bombay and a host of others gave up their lives in the campaign for the boycott of foreign cloth so that our national industries may survive and foreign cloth may be wiped off from our markets. But what has happened?

" Five years of rule by the Congress has resulted in the ruination of the handloom industry in this State. Nobody can deny that fact. In our district of Malabar, in Cannanore and Chirakkal taluks, there are about 20,000 weavers. Only a few of them are working at present, and the rest of them are really starving. They have got no money to purchase even their rations. Unless the Government come to their immediate relief, there will be starvation deaths. In the Address of His Excellency the Governor, it has been stated that the Government are giving thought to this subject and that they will soon announce the measures which they propose to take. This reminds me of the following story. Once a patient who was seriously ill and about to die sent his son to

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a doctor to fetch some medicine for him. The doctor, instead of sending some medicine immediately, asked the patient's son to wait till he had invented a new medicine to cure the patient's disease. Meanwhile the patient died. In the same way, the Hon. Minister for Labour who is also a doctor will not, I hope, tell the handloom workers to wait. I would request the Hon. Minister for Labour to take steps immediately to give relief to all those engaged in the handloom industry in this State. In order to popularize the handloom products, the purchasing power of the people must be increased, and if we want to increase the purchasing power of the people, we must smash the feudal system in this country. Also, unless adequate land reforms are introduced, the purchasing power of the people cannot be increased and our home market cannot be made to thrive. In this connexion, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members of this House to the Government's attitude towards foreign goods. The Government have opened a police station and posted about 150 police constables and officers to afford protection to the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills owned by the Britishers. In my own place, Kozhikode, the Commonwealth Factory had dismissed about 250 workers and in this connexion the Government have not taken any action against the management. But they have exempted that factory owned by the British capitalists from rule 79 of the Factories Act. The economic policy followed by this Government has been favourable only to foreign capitalists. This will be evident from the fact that the London 'Economist' has applauded the economic policy followed by the present Government as good. The above news item has been published in the *Hindu* of 11th April 1952. As a result of the economic policy pursued by the Government, more and more industries controlled by foreigners are coming into existence and our national industries are not thriving. Unless our Government change their present economic policy, there is no salvation for our country.

Another thing which I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Members is that this Government do not recognize the existence of working classes at all and the need to guarantee them a living wage, better conditions of work, trade union rights and security of service. On account of their negligence the workers say that there will be no salvation for the working classes in this country until and unless a democratic Government representing the working classes is established. I wish to refer again to the plight of handloom weavers in Malabar district and state that if the Government do not take immediate steps to give relief, there will be starvation deaths. The unemployed handloom workers of Malabar recently passed a resolution to resort to satyagraha if the Government did not come to their aid. I hope the Government will not force the workers to adopt such a course. In order to find a market for handloom products, the Government must ban the entry of foreign cloth into this country. The Government must also purchase the carpets produced by handloom weavers for supply to the police and the army . . . "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member's time is over."

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* SRI P. V. R. GAJAPATHI RAJU (RAJA OF VIZIANAGARAM) :
 “ Mr. Speaker, Sir, this year we have had a new kind of democracy—a democracy of opportunism, a democracy which means, gaining the immediate ends, in complete contravention of the spirit of the Constitution of India. The joint session of the Madras Legislature was summoned to hear the Address of His Excellency the Governor on the 6th of May in pursuance of Article 176 (1) of the Constitution. I wish to submit that the speech of His Excellency the Governor did not in any way attempt to fulfil the spirit of Article 176 (1) of the Constitution. There are two similar articles in the Constitution of India (Articles 86 and 87) which deal with the right of the President to address either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together. His Excellency the Governor having summoned the Legislative Assembly and the Council to meet together in pursuance of Article 176 (1) of the Constitution of India he should have stated in his Address fully the policy to be pursued by his Government and not merely confine himself to a mere statement of what his Government propose to do in the present session. I wish to refer in this connexion to a commentary on Article 87 by Sri Durga Das Basu published in his book, ‘A Commentary on the Constitution of India’. It is as follows :—

‘ Scope of Article 87 : The opening address : The power conferred upon the President by the present Article corresponds to the “ Speech from the Throne ” in England. Though there was no precedent for any such speech under the Government of India Act, 1935, the opening address delivered by President Rajendra Prasad in the first session of the Indian Parliament immediately after the commencement of the Constitution shows that this power of the President will be utilized by the Ministry and for similar purposes as in England. The President’s speech will be the first authoritative pronouncement of the policy of the Government, both domestic and foreign. It will contain a comprehensive review of the achievements of the Government in the past year and a survey of the problems particularly economic and financial, before the country.’

“ Unfortunately it is a mockery of democracy if the Government merely ask us to pass an urgent piece of legislation such as the one before us and nothing else. The whole Governor’s address has specified only one thing and none else. I feel strongly that the Governor and his Council of Ministers have not come forward with a clear-cut policy before the House. It is because the present Government were not sure of their position then and are not sure now also. With due respect to the Chair, I may be permitted to say that they have taken the Speaker’s election as a test of their strength.”

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ It was you who have taken it to mean a test of our strength.”

* SRI P. V. R. GAJAPATHI RAJU (RAJA OF VIZIANAGARAM) :
 —“ Having utilized the Speaker’s election as a test of the strength of their party, they perhaps did not have sufficient time to formulate policies to be placed before the House in the form of the Governor’s Address. They have conveniently postponed the date by a month when the Governor would address both Houses of the Legislature during the Budget session. It has been mentioned in the Governor’s Address that this procedure would be in accordance with clause (1) of Article 175 which is not the same as Article

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176 (1) under which we have now been summoned. I want again to bring to the notice of hon. Members of the House the specific provision under clause (1) of Article 87. The Address should normally contain a comprehensive review of the achievements of the Government in the past year (if it is so), and a survey of the problems, particularly economic and financial, before the country for the coming year. Article 176 (1) says in clear language that at the commencement of every session, the Governor shall address both the Houses of the Legislature. The article is very comprehensive and lays down that the Governor's Address shall contain a comprehensive review of the whole year—what the Government propose to do, what piece of legislation they will bring and so on. Sir, the whole idea behind the opening speech of the Governor to both Houses of the Legislature is to enable the new legislators who have come, to have a clear picture of the policy that the Government are going to pursue for the whole year. Article 382 of our Constitution merely states that this House has been constituted after the new Constitution has come into force. It is unlike the old House which had not been constituted under the Constitution. Hence there is no necessity to convene this sitting in view of clause (1) of Article 382 of the Constitution, as has been mentioned in the Governor's Address, as Article 382 automatically becomes inoperative.

"Under such a state of things when the Governor's Address does not specify any particular policy of the Government, hon. Members can quietly sit here for a while and then go away and tell their constituencies, 'Oh! we have not done anything.' We have never been told of any clear-cut policy and as such we had nothing to debate upon."

"Another thing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to touch upon. For conducting the business of this House, we follow mostly the British Parliamentary system. In doing so we must try to see that we do not blindly follow their Parliamentary system according to the letter of written procedure alone but also imbibe the spirit of British Democracy, etc."

MR. SPEAKER :—"The hon. Member's time is up. I now call upon the hon. Member, Mr. Swaminathan, to speak."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, several of the hon. Members in the Opposition have complained that inasmuch as the Governor's Speech did not contain any policy of the Government, they had little opportunity to speak and they also regretted that they may not get any opportunity in the future. When I say hon. Members, I mean my friends, Dr. K. B. Menon, and the Raja of Vizianagaram who has just spoken. I may assure them that when the Governor addresses us during the Budget session under Article 175 (1) of the Constitution, they would have ample opportunities of discussion on the Governor's Address. Therefore, I would request my hon. friend, Dr. K. B. Menon, who is the leader of the Socialist Party not to labour under any misapprehension.

"Sir, this Government has come into being only recently. Let us see the circumstances under which it has come into being. Our

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dear Rajaji after having held very responsible offices in the Centre retired from politics and came here to have a well-earned rest. But the situation here took a different turn. He was, so to say, compelled to take the leadership of the Congress Party. Hence it is necessary that he should be given sufficient time to consider the various intricate problems facing the Government. My friend, Mr. Ramamurthi, a member of the Communist Party, complained that no clear-cut policy of the Government has been mentioned in the Governor's Address. Let me point out to my esteemed friend, Mr. Ramamurthi, that ours is a Congress Government. We have a definite programme. Those things have been clearly laid down in the Congress manifesto. Definite programmes for implementation have been laid down by the Congress organization. We are also committed to the National Planning Commission's report.

"My Friend, Dr. Menon, mentioned something about land reforms. He is the leader of the Socialist Party. He wants revolutionary changes to be effected in our land revenue system. I for one may say that I am also for it. The Congress is also committed to such radical changes as abolition of zamins and so on. For instance, we have abolished zamins. Zamindari and inam estates have been taken over under the Zamindari Abolition Act. It is the intention of the Congress to make the tiller of the soil the virtual owner of the land. Towards that goal, we are proceeding. Next we shall have to stop the wholesale eviction of tenants from the lands. That is a human problem and the Government ought to bestow their earnest consideration over it. Inasmuch as the Congress also is for such revolutionary changes in our system of land tenure, I would gladly invite friends like Dr. K. B. Menon, the Raja of Vizianagaram and others who have seceded from the Congress to join our ranks now and strengthen us so that we can proceed further."

DR. K. B. MENON :—"I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, whether the hon. Member is canvassing support for the party in power?"

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—"No, Sir. As the Congress also is for revolutionary changes in our land tenure system as my Friend, Dr. Menon, I simply requested friends like him to join us and strengthen our hands."

"Then comes the question of the agricultural labourers. The Government should tackle this problem on correct lines. The condition of our agricultural labourers and factory workers is appalling. In western countries, viz., in England and Scandinavian countries there are specific legislations by which the interests of all these labourers are protected. Our agricultural labourers should be paid adequate wages commensurate with their cost of living."

"Then, Sir, I have to say one word about the development of agriculture. In what way are they going to tackle the problem of agriculture in the State? Formerly, there was the well subsidy scheme and now the Government have stopped it. It must be admitted that several small agriculturists were really benefited by the

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well subsidy scheme and I hope the Government will reconsider the question of giving well subsidy.

"In regard to the question of the backward classes, I think the Government should seriously consider the question. I am not talking of the problem of the backward classes in any communal spirit. Of course, it is true that during the last elections communalism played its part, but that was because of the approach made by the previous Government in regard to the problem of the backward classes. I think that this Government will not commit the same mistake that was committed by the previous Government, but that they will tackle the problem in a satisfactory manner. For instance, I would suggest that, as they have created a separate department for Harijan Welfare, they should create a separate department for the welfare of the backward classes also."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out that His Excellency in his Address has associated every one in this State with the feelings expressed by him of regret at the demise of the King. Personally speaking, I and my party wish to dissociate ourselves from those feelings of regret and also the greetings and good wishes sent to Queen Elizabeth."

MR. SPEAKER :—"The hon. Member should not repeat what has already been mentioned by another hon. Member. That point has already been referred to by one other hon. Member who spoke previously."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—"I will only refer to it in one sentence and proceed, Sir. His Excellency says in his Address that the late King worthily upheld the great traditions of British monarchy and endeared himself to one and all. So far as myself and the Communist Party to which I belong are concerned, it has nothing to do with us whether the late King upheld the traditions of British monarchy or not. After all, it is only due to that British monarchy that we were subjected to slavery for nearly 200 years and now the Congress Governor expresses gratitude to what the British monarchy has done to the people of India."

"Now, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. R. V. Swaminathan, says that revolutionary changes are possible. I do not know whether he said it on behalf of himself personally or on behalf of the other members of the Congress Party also. But, let him go carefully through the Address and convince himself whether there is any justification for our associating ourselves with the good wishes to Queen Elizabeth."

"Referring to the Treasury Bench, His Excellency pleads want of time because the Ministry took charge of the administration only a few weeks back. After all, can any one deny the fact that the same Congress Government which has been in power for nearly six years is now continued, something like putting old wine in new bottles? It does not matter if the personnel of the Ministry is different from the previous one. But, are they going to change the policy pursued by the previous Congress Ministry? We have

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heard speeches of some hon. Members of the Congress Party who referred to the Congress Election Manifesto. It does not matter, whether X or Y is the Chief Minister, but the policy is the same. As a matter of fact, we have seen how the Police are given full powers to administer, whoever may be the Chief Minister. We have had bitter experience in the past that the Chief Minister, or whoever is in charge of the Home Department, always relies upon the Report of the Commissioner of Police, and whatever the Police officers say is final and sacrosanct, and that is the Bible and the Geeta of the Hon. Rajaji also. We have heard, Sir, the statements made by several hon. Members about how they were prevented from attending the House. That is all done in the name of the Hon. Rajaji and in the name of democracy.

" Then, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to one other matter. Perhaps the Hon. Rajaji has the fortune or misfortune of leading the Cabinet under the minority Government. They know that they have not got an absolute majority and that they have to rely on the support of other parties. Then, Sir, it is quite evident that the people have rejected the Election Manifesto of the Congress during the last election and that they have given their verdict on the actions of the previous Congress Government. That is an accepted fact. Do you find any change or deviation in the policy pursued by this Government from that of the previous Government? Personally, I do not find much difference. For instance, there are many problems facing the country to-day which require further examination. Of course, the Hon. Rajaji may say, he is entering the forest. Perhaps before entering the Secretariat he sees that forests have grown all around and that wild animals are roaming about. I say, Sir, that unless the forests and the wild animals are completely destroyed, the country cannot be administered properly. Similarly, here also, it is the District Superintendents of Police that are in charge of the administration of the country. Let them go and see whether the action of the Police during the last three years could be justified. During the last elections, people were demanding an open enquiry into certain acts of the Police. I do not know whether the Hon. Chief Minister will find time to reply to the points raised. There have been instances of Police excesses, where women were raped in the streets and what has become of the representations made so far in regard to such matters? If he says that from the reports of the Police he could not take up those matters, then, I say, he could not see people through his glasses correctly, but he must change his glasses to know how the people react to the policies of the Congress.

" Then, Sir, we have been demanding an open enquiry in regard to the conduct of the Police. It is essential to have an open enquiry, particularly in view of the fact that allegations have been made on the floor of the House that the Police officials took bribes, raped women and committed similar offences. The charges are there and it is for the Hon. Chief Minister to order an enquiry into these matters. It does not, of course, matter if the enquiry is conducted even by a committee of Congress members—a non-official committee. On the other hand, we have got indications to show that the

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Hon. Chief Minister is not going to interfere in the day-to-day administration of the departments. Of course, I have no objection if he is not going to interfere in the matter of giving permits for the opening of ration shops here or there. But, if he says that the Police will be given a free hand to administer, then I have every objection to that. Let the Hon. Chief Minister note that since the days of 1935-36 the Police have not changed their attitude and if at all they have changed, they have only changed for the worse. I would only request him, Sir, not to rely on the reports of the Police officials alone.

"I have on this occasion to refer to the question of the non-gazetted officers of the Government. Though I have been agitating in this matter for the last six years, I find the non-gazetted officers are in the same position as they were in before. After all, there are only about 2 lakhs of them and it should not be difficult for the Government to implement the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission, provided there is the will to do so. We find that even to-day the expenses in connexion with His Excellency the Governor come to about 8 or 9 lakhs of rupees every year. I ask, why should you spend as much as that for a Congress Governor with a Gandhi cap. I want to know whether we cannot reduce the expenditure of the Governor so that we can give more to the peons standing before us for all the 24 hours of the day.

"There are one or two more points to which I would like to refer. There are 71 I.C.S. officers still in the administration of our State for whom we are paying between Rs. 3,500 and Rs. 4,000 a month. Are we rich enough to pay such huge salaries for these officers? Is it not a fact that the standard of living of the people is deplorably low? Under such circumstances, I do not see any reason why a Congress Government which proclaims simplicity in all things, should pay such high salaries for these officials.

"I would like to conclude by referring to one or two important points. I would refer to jails in particular. The ex-Chief Minister, Mr. Kumaraswami Raja, promised that the political prisoners would be distributed to their respective places. I do not know how much time the Hon. Chief Minister will take to solve this problem. That promise was made about four months ago and still the matter is pending. As a matter of fact, I know perfectly well that the Inspector-General of Police recommended the transfer and that it was also the decision of the Cabinet."

* SRI ASI NEELADRIRAO REDDI :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to point out that His Excellency's Address has made no reference to several of the important problems. For instance, nothing has been said about educational facilities, village roads, projects, etc. To start with, the Vamsadhara Project has not been included in the Five-year Plan. Sir, I may mention here that Vamsadhara and Nagavalli are the biggest of the perennial rivers in my district. If this project is undertaken and completed, 140 million cubic feet of water could be stored and used for irrigating 3 lakhs more of dry land, besides supplementing water-supply to

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50,000 more acres of wet land. I am told that the cost of constructing a reservoir will be only 8 crores of rupees and that the return on this capital outlay will work out to 2.6 per cent, which is certainly greater than that on other projects which come to only 1.5 or 1.8 per cent. Moreover, Sir, it is said that the site of the project is situated in a congenial place where it would be possible to complete it within a period of 2½ years. That, I understand, is the opinion of engineering experts also. So, Sir, I request the Government to recommend to the Planning Commission the inclusion of this project in the Five-year Plan.

"Then, Sir, there is another project which has been completely neglected so far as Srikakulam district is concerned. I understand that the Government of Orissa have taken up the construction of a reservoir near the source of the Bahuda river, which lies within Orissa. Unless our Government take up the matter with the Orissa Government in regard to the construction of the reservoir, a whole taluk will become completely dry. By the construction of a reservoir in the Bahuda river, I am sure, another 10,000 acres of dry land could be irrigated, besides supplementing water for existing wet lands. Above all, I would request the Government that, before launching on any big schemes, they should immediately take up the question of improvement of minor irrigation, not only in my district, but throughout the State. For instance, many tanks are silted up and if silt is removed, I expect there will be an immediate return in that it will prevent starvation of the people in these hard days.

"During the floods of 1923, the southern bund of Bahuda river was washed away and ever since then there has been a lot of annual damage to fields and crops and the villagers have been pressing to carry out repairs to the river bund. I request the Government to take immediate steps so that hundreds of acres of land which are being damaged and rendered unfit for cultivation on account of floods, could be saved. In Srikakulam district, there is Uddanam, which is a variation of Udayanam, or garden; it is full of coconut and jack fruit gardens. It is an area of 150 square miles with a population of 50,000. People there are suffering for want of water just like those in the Rayalaseema districts. Something should be done to ease the condition of the people there.

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"Coming to the question of roads, some village roads have been constructed and some roads were transferred to the villagers. I suggest that if these roads could be metalled, transport facilities could be improved.

"In the district of Srikakulam, there was not even one single College until last year when they opened a second-grade college. I hope that the Government will provide sufficient funds to provide educational facilities for the people of the district.

"My hon. Friends Sri Thimma Reddi and Sri Venkatasubba Reddi have explained the relief measures necessary in respect of the famine-affected districts. My suggestion is about the preventive measures to be taken to stop the recurrence of famine in those

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districts. What is the cause of famine? Famines are due to want of rain and the failure of rains is due to absence of conservancy of our forests. Besides the starting of irrigation schemes to see that rain water does not go to waste, it is necessary to conserve forests and afforesting operations should be undertaken by the Government on a large scale and then only we can have regular rainfall.

"In the agency areas of Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam, there is a system known as the *muttadari* system. It has been promised by the Government that this system would be abolished, but it has not been accomplished. I request the Government to abolish that system and introduce the panchayat system. There are some villages in Gangaravimadugulu and Chintapalli areas in which the ryots are complaining that they are very much harassed by the levy of royalties. These things should cease. Then, Sir, the rehabilitation of the aboriginal population is very much neglected. In the Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam districts, schemes should be started for their development and progress. I suggest to the Government that co-operative societies should be started and credit facilities should be provided to the aboriginal population. That will better their financial position because they would also be able to sell their forest produce for a better price and their agricultural produce will also find a better market."

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I now rise to intervene in this debate, it is not with a view to deal with the constitutional and other points of propriety that were raised during the course of the debate by hon. Members both yesterday and to-day. My chief object is to refer to the subject under my charge, namely, the question of famine which has been looming so large and I wish to say a few words in a general way about the matters that were raised yesterday and to-day.

"There is evidence of a lot of constitutional knowledge on the part of Members, especially my hon. Friend Sri Viswanatham and I might as well say that he is beginning to be a veritable constitutional pandit. And in you, Sir, there is such a fund of constitutional knowledge that I venture to submit that if perchance all the volumes of May's Parliamentary Practice are lost, you can produce at any rate the substance of it from your own mental printing press, just as in the olden days, our Vedas were handed down from generation to generation by word of mouth. I am glad to see that my Friend, the Raja of Vizianagaram, is also a building constitutional pandit and there are many more both on that side and I am sure on this side also who will deal with that subject in due course.

"Turning to the Governor's Address, Sir, it was observed by some hon. Members that it did not cover the whole field of programme of the Government that is to come before this Legislature. I wonder whether one can expect the whole programme for the term of this Legislature to be put up in the very first session of this House. I am afraid they are thinking in terms of a Five-year Plan. That cannot be, especially when His Excellency has said that he is going to address the Legislature again in the month of June. I must take it that, acting on the Biblical

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proverb, 'Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof,' he has confined himself to the most arresting subjects that have to be dealt with and he has given a very vivid description in paragraph 5, of famine conditions existing in the State and the various measures that have been taken, and he has also referred to the plight of weavers. He has really dealt with the most important subjects and surely he may do so again when he addresses this House next, and one need not be in a hurry to expect the whole plan for the next five years at this stage.

"In these days of small mercies, I should really be thankful to my hon. Friend from Chittoor, the Raja of Karvetnagar, who said that the Government are doing all that is humanly possible to tackle the problem of famine in the State but only complained that the way in which it was implemented was not satisfactory. It may be so; there are officers and officers; there are officers who are enthusiastic; there are officers who are over-enthusiastic; there are officers who just do their duty and not one little item more than that; there are officers who shirk their duty and there are also officers who look forward to the first day of every month, that is the pay day. Having regard to the human set-up of things, we have got to give some margin. I may assure the House, Sir, that the Government are doing their best and they have recently invited the attention of the district authorities to the need for infusing enthusiasm and energy in their officers so that they may tackle this problem more quickly and in a better way. I am also obliged to Sri C. V. Somayajulu who gave a description of the way in which things are being done and he also referred to the fact that it is easy to offer destructive criticism but what is wanted is constructive criticism. He said that it is very easy to break an earthen pot, but it is very difficult to make one; a small stick in the hand of a small boy though emaciated with tuberculosis will do the job and it will be smashed to pieces but it is very difficult to make one. In this connexion, I remember one incident that happened in the old Legislative Council during Budget time. One hon. Member, while criticizing the electricity policy of the Government, said that the Pykara scheme was a 'pythiyakhara' scheme, a mad man's scheme. The Hon. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar who was in charge of the subject got really annoyed. That scheme was very much appreciated by the general public and they were expecting very good things from it and he tackled it in a brilliant manner and the result was that for some time after that in the Council, there was no irresponsible criticism. Now, Sir, turning to famine conditions in the districts, the districts affected are Nellore, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Anantapur, Chittoor, Chingleput, North Arcot and Coimbatore. Various schemes have been prepared to give employment to the unemployed and food to the old, the decrepit and the children. Various schemes of water-supply are also being taken up; the major irrigation works taken on hand are 56 in number, minor irrigation works come to 756, rural water-supply accounts for 1,626; there are 400 food production schemes; there are 218 district board works and 23 other works; there are nearly 1,000 gruel centres run by the Government and a large number of people are being fed and

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the amount spent is at the rate of Rs. 6 lakhs per month. Employment is being given to about 6 to 7 lakhs of people. Apart from all this, the collection of land revenue has been postponed and in other cases totally remitted. In respect of out-turn of crops of annas four and less, there has been a complete remission and between annas four and annas eight, there has been half remission and in other cases, there has been a postponement of collection. One curious and extraordinary thing is that this time the collection of cesses has also been postponed; till now there has been no such postponement but this year owing to the extraordinary circumstances in which we were placed, the Government went to the length of postponing collection of cesses also which amounts to one-third of the revenue or nearly annas five in a rupee."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister may continue his speech after lunch. The House will now adjourn for lunch and meet again at 3 p.m."

(After lunch—3 p.m.)

III.—CANCELLATION OF THE MOTION FOR THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, before we proceed with the debate on the address of His Excellency the Governor . . ."

SRI K. GOVINDA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Order, order, the hon. Member will please resume his seat."

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, before we proceed with the debate on the address of His Excellency the Governor, I wish to make a motion with regard to the election of members to the Public Accounts Committee. Sir, as per the motion which I made the other day and adopted by the House, the election of members to the Public Accounts Committee is to take place to-morrow and the time for receipt of nominations is to close at 3 p.m. to-day. To-day the Leader of the Opposition represented to me that, in view of the present strength of the House and in view of the existence of several parties here, the number of persons to be elected by this House should be increased. I have agreed to consider the request to increase the strength. So it will not be possible to hold the election to-morrow, and I beg to move—

'That the motion for the election of members to the Public Accounts Committee from the Madras Legislative Assembly carried by the House on 7th May 1952 be cancelled.'

Sir, I beg leave of the House to cancel that original motion."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I do not think there is anybody who wants to object to the motion."

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:—"No objection."

The motion was carried.